

Judicial Administration Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
January 11, 2008

The Judicial Administration Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, January 11, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Thomas P. Boyer, Roland W. Chamblee, Michael H. Eldred, James R. Heuer, Gregory A. Horn, Stanley A. Levine, Bruce S. Markel, Carol J. Orbison, Judith S. Proffitt, and Thomas P. Stefaniak, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz; James Diller, Court Analyst, Angela James and James Walker, all with the Division of State Court Administration, provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Guests present. Jim Wolf, Executive Director, Survey Research Center, IUPUI; Leslie Tobin, Survey Research Center; and Larry Grau, The Grau Group, Inc. was also present.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes for the committee on October 12, 2007 were approved.
5. Weighted caseload measures.
 - a. Review of weighted caseload study. Jeffrey Bercovitz gave an overview of the judicial weighted caseload measures update for new committee members.
 - b. Data review. Jim Wolf and Larry Grau reviewed the data tabulated by the Survey Research Center.
 - (1) Larry Grau distributed a chart entitled “Weighted Caseload 2007-8 – File Review Progress (Jan. 11, 2008).” He explained 411 case files from small and medium counties were included in the materials distributed. About 4,000 total CCS’s would be reviewed in the case file audit portion of the study. He reported Allen, Lake, and Marion, counties are not included in the materials distributed, since they are not on Doxpop, but will be included soon.
 - (2) Jim Wolf, Survey Research Center, distributed a handout entitled, “Weighted Caseload Study – Preliminary Results 1/11/08.” This included preliminary findings from timesheets and from the chronological case summaries found on Doxpop for the case file audits. He noted cases were reviewed in a county were in proportion to the number of cases filed in a particular case type per year.
 - (a) He reported there were few jury trials shown on the time sheets returned by judicial officers from the time study. However, he found a number of jury trials in the randomly selected case files used to count the frequency of judge actions in a case file audit. He suggested the Survey Research Center count the number of days indicated in CCS entries for the jury trial, and then use the average time per day from the time sheets to calculate average time for a jury trial in a particular case type. The committee members agreed to compare the length of jury trials indicated by this method with that calculated by taking the jury trials days and length directly from the time sheets.
 - (b) Members of the committee agreed they wanted to look at all D felonies, not just in problem-solving courts, but only misdemeanors in problem-solving courts.

(c) Jeffrey Bercovitz discussed the need to determine on a court by court basis the problem-solving court cases within an existing court docket for the case file audit.

(d) Committee members discussed collection of case file data in juvenile cases.

(e) Jeffrey Bercovitz announced the Indiana Judicial Center received a Technical Assistance grant award for this update of Judicial Weighted Caseload Measures. The \$30,000 budget provided in the grant should complete payment of the Survey Research Center and Larry Grau for their services in data collection and preparation of a draft report. Jeffrey Bercovitz and the Judicial Center would advise the committee of any fiscal concerns in completion of the study.

(f) Jeffrey Bercovitz agreed to draft a letter to Judge Dwyan, Chair of Lake County's Data Committee, which administers the "Courtview" system in order to remotely review CCS for the case file audit portion of the study.

6. Next meeting. Committee members agreed to hold meetings on the following dates: Friday, February 8, 2008, March 14, 2008, April 11, 2008 (No meeting), May 9, 2008, June 13, 2008, July 11, 2008, August 8, 2008 all from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law